REMARKS

THE AMENDMENT FILED JULY 23, 2007 SHOULD NOT BE ENTERED

The "inclination supporting plates" now recited by claim 20 are exemplified by elements 21 shown in Fig. 4. New claim 32 defines their inclined surfaces 21A as directly contacting planar surfaces of the inclined plates 18.

Note that in Betsuyaku "guide members 9", which the Examiner equates with applicants' V-shaped groove plate pieces, are not supported on inclined surfaces of "positioning ribs 5."

In the present invention, the supporting stands hold the V-shaped groove plate pieces by locking means provided between the inclination supporting plates which accurately position and support the V-shaped groove pieces. Such structure is unique to the present invention and does not exist in Betsuyaku. The structure recited by claim 20 enables the V-shaped groove plate pieces to be held/positioned by the inclination supporting plates so as to accurately mate with a positioning pin. On the contrary, elements 9 in Betsuyaku have no such support and therefore cannot serve to accurately position the container.

(1) In the advisory action of July 9, 2007, the Examiner writes: "Although Betsuyaku discloses a small pin 14 for positioning within concave portion 8 (and guided into that position by item 9), this does not detract from the ability of portion 9 to also position the device on a larger sized fitting projection."

The Examiner's argument is considered erroneous because in the art (industry) to which Betsuyaku is directed the size of the pin is a single standardized size and there exists no larger or smaller pin.

(2) In the advisory action the Examiner also argues: "Screwing or adhering firmly secures the items 9 in place which would allow them to mate with undisclosed fitting projections and to function for accurate positioning."

Again, the argument is considered erroneous because it ignores the fact that the size of the "fitting projection" is a single standardized size in the relevant industry.

If "guide members" 9 are supported only by the positioning ribs 5 as contended by the Examiner, they would easily bend and function as cushions, making it difficult for elements 9 to accurately position and support the container. In Betsuyaku there is no structure for supporting the inclined face of elements 9 from the opposite side.

In the present invention, the supporting stands hold the V-shaped groove plate pieces by locking means provided between inclination supporting plates and accurately position and support the V-shaped groove plate pieces by means of the inclination supporting plates. In addition, the V-shaped groove plate pieces include a frame and a pair of inclined plates. The inclined plates of the V-shaped groove plate pieces directly mate with the pins. By this design, the pair of inclined plates of the V-shaped groove plate pieces, accurately positioned and supported by the supporting stands, directly mate with the pins without deflection and accurately position and securely support the container. This structure is unique to the present invention, and does not exist in Betsuyaku. This structure enables the V-shaped groove plate pieces held by the inclination supporting plates to mate with the pins, so that the container is accurately positioned and supported. On the contrary, the end face 10 of "guide members" 9 in Betsuyaku is not supported on the opposite side and, accordingly, the end face 10 bends easily. Under such circumstances, the container cannot be accurately positioned and securely supported.

(3) Examiner writes: "Applicant further argues that nowhere does Betsuyaku teach items 9 supported by the positioning ribs...Since ribs 5 form the generically annotated "positioning means 4", if items 9 are adhered to, or screwed to the positioning means, they are supported by the ribs."

If "guide members" 9 are not adhered or screwed to the positioning means, guide members 9 would tend to shift in the axial direction (longitudinal direction) of the ribs 5. Conversely, if "guide members" 9 are adhered or screwed to the positioning means, while they would not shift axially of the ribs 5, because they are only supported by the ribs 5, the flange shaped end face 10 can be easily bent. Therefore, the end face 10 of a "guide member" 9 function as a cushion and it is

difficult for the pins to accurately position and securely support the container by contact with the end face 10.

Thus, the present invention has the advantage that the pair of inclined plates of the V-shaped groove plate pieces are accurately positioned ad supported by the supporting stands and directly mate with the pins without deflection to accurately position and securely support the container.

Claim 24

The "support stands 5" may be parallel, as noted by the Examiner's remarks in the final action, but the Examiner's comment ignores the fact that claim 24 further recites plural stands on each side of the opening.

Claims 28, 30 and 33

These new claims, like claim 24, recite plural supporting structures on each of opposing sides of a central area.

Claims 29 and 31

These claims define the locking means recited by claim 20 in terms of structure unlike anything disclosed by Betsuyaku.

Claim 32

New claim 31 defines the structure of the V-shaped groove plate pieces which is contacted and supported by the inclined surfaces of the supporting stands.

Accordingly, reconsideration in view of the present amendments is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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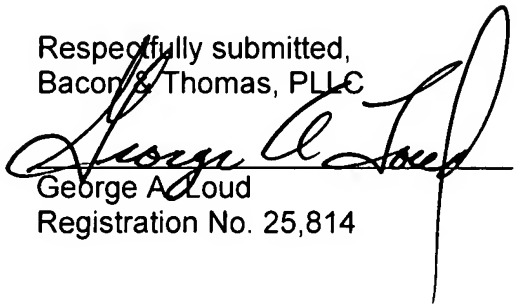

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